

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Request for Reconsideration and Request for New Office Action is responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 13, 2007.

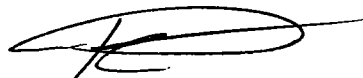
The cover page of the Office Action states that claims 12-32 and 39-61 are pending and subject to examination on the merits, and states that "claims 12-32" are pending and subject to restriction and/or election requirement. The body of the Office Action then restricts the claims into two groups, Group I with claims 12-25 and Group II with claims 26-33.

The December 13, 2007 Office Action is not clear for a number of reasons. First, as indicated in the Office Action mailed on August 23, 2007, claims 1-61 are pending, not claims 12-32 and 39-61 as indicated in the December 13, 2007 Office Action. Second, the body of the Office Action indicates that the claims 12-33 (Group I with claims 12-25 and Group II with claims 26-33) are subject to restriction, whereas the cover page of the Office Action indicates that claims "12-32" are subject to restriction. Third, the December 13, 2007 Office Action acknowledges that claims 39-61 are pending, but does not state if these claims are in Group I or Group II. Thus, the Office Action does not clearly indicate what claims are being restricted.

The undersigned attempted to contact the Examiner by phone on December 26, 2007, and subsequent to this, but the undersigned's phone call was not returned.

In view of the above, **Applicants request that a new Office Action be issued clearly addressing all of pending claims 1-61.** Alternatively, the undersigned would be willing to elect a Group of claims over the phone if this would help expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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